

understand what it means to sin, to repent, to be saved or to believe. We believe that children are loved by God, and if they were to die before being able to make a decision to accept Christ as Saviour, they would go straight to Heaven. The false practice of 'godparents' standing in for the child is not found anywhere in Scripture. No one but Jesus can save a person from Hell.

Churches that practice infant baptism are really teaching that water saves the child, but the Bible clearly states that only the blood of Christ on the cross can do that. When Jesus cried out, **"It is finished!"** (John 19:30), He was declaring that the full price for salvation had been paid. Therefore believers get baptized because they are saved, not to be saved.

Most people were sprinkled by a priest or vicar a few days after birth, but once you read what the Bible actually states about baptism, you will realize that 'christening' does not save anyone and does not mean that you are saved and destined for Heaven. Think about it, if Jesus was baptized by full immersion, if He taught His disciples to baptize others this way, and the Bible knows of no other method, is there not something wrong with the sprinkling we received at birth?

### *Why should I be baptized?*

Every person who has placed their trust in Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour should be baptized as an act of faithful obedience. Such obedience glorifies God! At His baptism Jesus heard His Father say, **"Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"** (Mark 1:11). Surely then the Father will be well pleased with those who follow in the footsteps of Jesus. All who have decided to follow Christ ought to gladly and eagerly be baptized by full immersion. What they do will be a wonderful witness to those watching.

### *How can I be baptized?*

The pastor of the church, or other believers, will be happy to talk to you about your desire to be baptized. If you are attending a baptism service today, why not talk to someone before you leave. We will be able to supply you with literature either by mail or through the Internet. You can also find information at [www.LWBC.co.uk](http://www.LWBC.co.uk).



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# Baptism

## *Doing it the Bible Way*



"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost"

Matthew 28:19

## *Introduction to Baptism*

This leaflet is designed to briefly answer any questions about baptism. The Bible is the only true source that teaches us about baptism rather than the different practices of various denominations. What the Bible says is of great importance and deserves our consideration when discussing any subject, including baptism.

**"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world"** (Matthew 28:19-20).

## *How should I be baptized?*

Jesus commanded His disciples to baptize new followers in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost in Matthew 28:19. The apostle Paul clearly explains baptism in several of his letters in the New Testament. The word "baptize" is a Greek word simply carried directly over into the English language and spelled out phonetically. If the meaning of the word was translated into English it would actually imply full

immersion in water. So the Greek word indicates the correct mode of baptism and thus rejects every other method used by certain denominations. For instance, it cannot mean 'sprinkle' or to 'pour' water upon anyone, as in the practice of certain denominations which baptize [christen] infants.

The true meaning of baptism determines the mode both literally and symbolically. Jesus gave His disciples a very beautiful and dramatic way of identifying with Him by being buried and raised up out of the water. Water baptism is a powerful symbol of the burial and resurrection of Christ. A Christian believer is buried under the water and raised up from a watery grave.

Paul wrote in Romans 6:4, **"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."** We see then that baptism is a picture of a believer leaving the old life and receiving a new life in Christ. There is in fact no other possible way to fully portray the meaning of baptism. Those who are baptized are demonstrating that they have cut all ties with the past life and are determined to live a new life of following Jesus Christ.

The New Testament church agreed on the correct method of baptism at its beginning, but when denominations came along, so priests started to change the mode to something altogether foreign to the Bible. In changing baptism by full immersion into 'sprinkling' they were in effect denying what it stood for. The way a believer is baptized does matter, for how can any other way testify of faithful obedience to God?

## *Who should be baptized?*

Everywhere in the New Testament those who were baptized had already professed faith in Christ. This means that they were old enough to express their own need of salvation and a desire to follow Christ. Baptism is always and only for those who believe. This means that baptism can only follow conversion; it cannot precede it. The person being baptized has personal faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on Calvary's cross as the sacrifice for their sin. This is something an infant cannot do.

## *What about infant baptism then?*

Nowhere in the Bible can we find the notion of infant baptism or christening. There is not one record of babies being baptized. Why? An infant cannot